Recommendations of RCC on New Railway Zones

3436. SHR1C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Convention Committee has expressed opposition to creation of new Railway Zones and Divisions;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the recommendations of RCC in this regard;

(d) whether the management cadres and staff federations have also opposed creation of Zones and Division; and

(e) if so, whether the Ministry would fulfil the commitment of creation of new Zones and Divisions and if so, by when all these Zones and Divisions would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c)The Railway Convention Committee did not favour the setting up of new zones being of the view that money spent on creation of additional Zones could be better utilised in areas like procurement of rolling-stock, doubling/renewal of railway lines and in electrification programmes. However, the Committee favoured creation of more Divisions.

(d) The officers and staff federations have opposed the creation of more zones/divisions.

(e) The new zones and divisions were proposed with a view to provide relief to the heavily worked zones, improve accessibility and enable the administration to have effective control over the compact zones leading to better service and customer satisfaction. However, owing to the resource crunch now being faced by the Railways, these zones and divisions will only gradually become operational depending upon the availability of funds for the purpose. No definite time frame can be indicated for the same at this age.

Maintenance and repair of Railway bridges

3437. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to maintain and repair old Railway bridges in the country in the next five years;